[8th October 1928

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" Yes. The notification is directed solely to discriminate killing."

Mr. MAHMUD SCHAMNAD :—" In the answer to clause (*c*) it is stated that the question of removing the restriction is under consideration. May I know how long this question has been under the consideration of Government ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" It has been under the consideration of Government for the last two or three weeks."

Increase of wild animals in South Kanara district.

* 369 *Q.*—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there has been an enormous increase of wild animals, especially tigers, panthers, elephants and boars on account of the extension and increase of reserved forests in this Presidency, especially in South Kanara ;

(*b*) whether registers are kept of the number of cattle destroyed by wild animals in the villages adjoining forests in the several districts of this Presidency, and if so, what is the number of cattle so destroyed during the year ending 30th June 1928 in the several districts ; and

(*c*) what action Government have taken or propose to take to check the increase of wild animals that are likely to destroy cattle and cultivation ?

A.—(*a*) The hon. Member's attention is invited to the report of the Collector of South Kanara placed on the Council table in connection with Legislative Council Question No. 1424 answered on 25th January 1928.

(*b*) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to Register No. 19 III at page 122 of the Revised Forms of village accounts. The Government have no information concerning the number of cattle destroyed by wild animals during the year ending 30th June 1928 in the villages adjoining forests.

(*c*) The hon. Member's attention is invited to the answer given to Legislative Council Question No. 854 asked by Mr. D. Manjayya Heggade on 2nd November 1925 and to the report of the Collector of South Kanara referred to in clause (*a*) above. The Government have recently issued orders allowing the villagers to hunt wild animals in certain portions of reserved forests in South Kanara during the period July to January of the year.

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" As to clause (*b*), it is stated that the Government have no information concerning the number of cattle destroyed by wild animals during the year. May I enquire whether Government think that this destruction of cattle by wild animals is such a small thing, and that they cannot get the information on this subject ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" The benefit likely to be derived from the enquiry is not proportionate to the trouble required for the enquiry."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" May I point out, Sir. . . ."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The hon. Member will have to take another opportunity to point out. Now the occasion can be used only for putting supplementary questions."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" I want to enquire after finding out that there has been a reduction of at least 50 per cent in ten years by the destruction of wild animals, whether Government will make a careful enquiry in to the subject?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" I do not admit the correctness of the premises of my friend and so I am not prepared to make any enquiry."

Jails

Alleged conversion to Christianity of the accused in the Villivakkam murder case.

*370 Q.—Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the two accused in what is known as the Villivakkam murder case who had been condemned to be hanged were lodged in the Central Jail, Vellore, prior to their execution;

(b) whether it is a fact that the two accused were converted to Christianity prior to their execution;

(c) whether it is a fact that Mr. Kadirvelu Nainar, a retired Tahsildar and a religious lecturer in the jail, induced these two condemned men to change their religion;

(d) whether it is a fact that this Mr. Nainar promised the two condemned men a specially grand funeral and decent burial;

(e) whether it is a fact that these condemned men embraced Christianity on the strength of that promise;

(f) whether it is a fact that these two men actually received only the ordinary paupers' burial near Vellore town toll-gate; and

(g) whether preachers of Hindu religion had equal access to the two condemned men prior to their conversion to Christianity?

A.—(a) Yes.
(b) Yes.
(c) No.
(d) No.
(e) No.
(f) Government have no information.
(g) Hindu moral lecturers have as much free access as the lecturers of other religions, but in this particular instance no Hindu lecturer visited the jail between the date of admission of these men to the jail and date of execution, viz., 2nd May 1927 to 15th September 1927.

Mr. T ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—" May I know whether the Christian missionaries are prevented by rules from preaching to Hindu prisoners?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" I want notice."